

## Friends of the San Antonio Public Library

Volume 14, Number 6

November • December • 2002

Editor: Marti Nodine

### *From the President*



The next few months are going to be busy and, I hope, productive and enjoyable for the Friends.

Two major events will dominate our Calendar: the Centennial Poster Party will be at the Central Library Auditorium on November 12 at 6:00 PM. Please come, bring your friends, and buy a poster. A colorful poster by a local artist would make a great CHRISTMAS GIFT! The next event will be the Arts and Letters Awards on December 1 at 2:00 PM in the Central Library Auditorium. Our honorees are profiled in the Features Section on pages 4 and 5.

At this time I would like to challenge all of us Friends to join in supporting the Born to Read project sponsored by the Library Foundation. If ever there were a cause that is central to our purpose, the Born to Read project is it. Please try to contribute.

Contributions can be mailed to:

Born to Read Project  
SAPL Foundation  
315 East Commerce St., Ste. 201  
City 78205

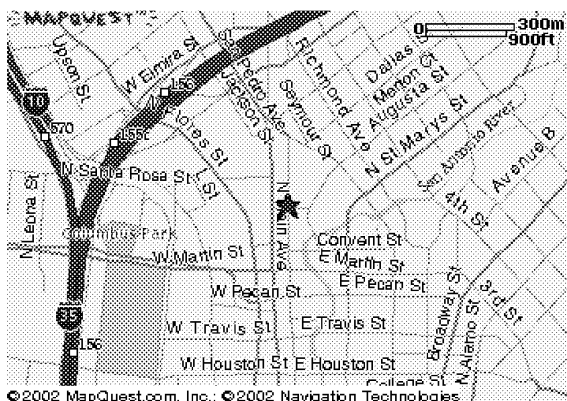
*Barbara C. Isner, President*

### **FOSAPL Open Board Meeting November 20, 2002 • 7:00 PM**

**Central Library Auditorium • 600 Soledad • (210) 207-2500**

**Directions:** 600 Soledad Plaza, south of Romana Plaza. Site bounded by Soledad St. to the west, Navarro St. to the north, Augusta St. to the east, and Giraud St. to the south. Central

entrance off of Soledad with direct access to city-operated parking garage. One hour free parking with validation.



### **2002 ARTS & LETTERS AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Join us on December 1 at 2:00 PM at the Central Library Auditorium to honor two outstanding community leaders who have helped shape San Antonio's intellectual and cultural life.

#### **LEWIS FAIRCHILD FISHER**

In 1996, **Lewis F. Fisher** became the president of Maverick Publishing Company, which publishes general interest books about San Antonio and Texas. Fisher wrote the first five titles, then expanded to other authors, who have written 11 of the 20 Maverick Publishing titles in print through 2002; works range in subject matter from place names of San Antonio and surrounding counties to Texas wines.

As a writer and publisher, Fisher's life and work are closely bound to South Central Texas, although he comes to San Antonio from the Northeast.



*Continued on p. 4*

#### **MICHAEL GREENBERG**

A man of few words, at least about himself, **Mike Greenberg** did share a bit of biographical information with the A & L committee. We think you will agree that his comments below reveal a man of seasoned intellect, deep concern for community and cultural viability and ironic wit. The A&L Committee expresses its gratitude for Mr. Greenberg's informed and consistent work to raise our city's level of awareness in what constitutes civilized living. Whether his comments focus upon a given symphony performance or a desired mix of residence and retail, he obviously has our city at heart. We applaud his gift to all of us of aesthetic sensibilities and pragmatic outlook.



*Continued on p. 4*



## Friends of the San Antonio Public Library

### Board Meeting Minutes

### September 18, 2002

The September 18, 2002, FOSAPL Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with President **Barbara Isner** presiding and the following Board Members present: **Vera Banner**, **Gerry Celitans**, **Ann Eastwood**, **Robert Harris**, **Vera Hophan**, **Aaron Konstam**, **Pat Konstam**, **Lee LaCaff**, **Mary McVicker**, **Pat Mendiola**, **Linda Nairn**, **Marti Nodine**, **Ronnie Retzlöff**, **Robbie Ruppert**, and **Bettie Ward**; ex officio members: Assistant Library Director **Mary Louise Daneri**, Library Board Member **Cathy Dean**.

**Barbara Isner** began the meeting with two Special Reports:

- **Barbara Celitans**, Chair of the SAPL Centennial Poster Committee, introduced artist **Clif Tinker** who unveiled his completed, winning design designated as SAPL's official centennial poster. **Clif** stated that he felt greatly honored to be chosen the poster artist and thanked the Friends for their sponsorship. He has relinquished all copyrights of the poster to SAPL and will be participating in various library programs throughout the year. He's looking forward to the official unveiling in November and wished the Friends great success with their project.

- **Barbara Isner** then introduced new member **Lucile Gale**, SAPLF Programs Coordinator. She, in turn, introduced **Susan Monday**, coordinator of children's programs during 2003 relating to **Dale Chilhuys**'s blown-glass sculpture, a site-specific work commissioned by the Library Foundation to hang in the Library atrium. **Susan** distributed a schedule of art-related activities that will be presented at Central and all the branch libraries. Foundation funding has allowed for additional artists to create public art at each branch and to develop a traveling art trunk with curriculum guide for use in the classroom. The teaching guide is aimed at all grade levels, and several schools have already signed on to partner with their branch library for **Chilhuys** centennial programs. Completed artwork will be displayed at each library branch. Approximately 4,000 school children are expected to be involved in the **Chilhuys** programs. For further information or to volunteer to assist with the activities, please call **Susan Monday** at 227-6457 or e-mail: [mcatee@dccl.com](mailto:mcatee@dccl.com).

#### Returning to the Agenda:

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted after corrections were made to correct the spelling of artist **Clif Tinker's** name and to indicate the presence of Board Member **Lee LaCaff**.

Nominating Committee update: **Marti Nodine** was appointed Chair.

Treasurer **Robbie Ruppert** distributed updated copies of the Friends' finances. The report was reviewed and accepted.

Membership Chair **Ronnie Retzlöff** reported an increase of 6 members; 4 were charter memberships.

Newsletter Editor **Marti Nodine** reported that 800 newsletters were printed at a total cost of \$474.63. The higher cost was due to the additional \$54.00 for scanning photos in this expanded edition.

Book Cellar member **Aaron Konstam** reported on a plan for reorganizing the Book Cellar, utilizing the space that was left by **Blimpie's** closure. A diagram drawn by **Jim Wogstad** includes a children's area with rug and bean bag chairs, new shelves in the back area, a vertical wall to hide the cafeteria layout, vending machines, water fountain near the rest room, and signage. The plan has been presented to Assistant Library Directors **Mary Louise Daneri** and **Aubrey George** for consideration and approval. Cost and implementation will then be discussed with the Book Cellar Committee and Friends.

**Barbara Isner** reported that the August Workshop on Book Sales was well attended with representatives from all Friends' groups. Branch Friends' were encouraged to take all the duplicate fiction books from the Book Cellar for sale in their branch book sales. Writer's Friends member **Maria Pfeiffer** suggested that the Friends increase their membership roles by inviting SAPF members to join.

**Barbara** also reported that the Monte Vista Association held a dinner and book sale at the Magnolia Gardens with all proceeds earmarked to establish an endowment for maintaining the landscaped grounds at Landa Library. At this time, the members declined an invitation to form a Friends of Landa that is affiliated with FOSAPL.

Regarding Administration News, Assistant Library Director **Mary Louise Daneri** stated that Council would approve the final COSA budget on September 19, 2002. She was hopeful that the original \$400,000 in library materials would be reinstated. No library personnel lost their jobs. The individuals were reassigned to vacant library positions with the same salary status.

**Mary Louise** also explained that there are two funds from which the branches receive monies: 1. the Friends, as listed in the Treasurer's report and 2. the Gift and Memorial Funds that go directly to SAPL and are considered COSA monies. These may be bequeathed to a particular branch or department. Branches need to request funds from SAPL that are used from the Gift and Memorial Funds.

However, the branches may directly order and pay for items from monies generated by their Friends group provided that they follow SAPL guidelines in relation to materials needed and are compliant with the goals of the strategic plan. To ensure this, the requests must first be sent to **Mary Louise** for consideration. She will discuss the items with the branch manager, after which the branch manager may order, directly, using the Friends' system.

**Mary Louise** also stated that the Millennium Grants would not be implemented this year due to a shortage of staff and time. Instead, she requested that the Friends go back to a "wish list" with a change to having only one list, systemwide, that benefits the library as a whole. Discussion on this matter was postponed until the next meeting.

Library Board Member **Cathy Dean** reported that Board members had met individually with their Council representatives to advocate not cutting the SAPL budget. She also reported that

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the Board was pleased with the success of the Summer Reading Program that serviced 25,000 teens and children. The cost/value of the program was approximately \$582,000. Due to the generous donations, mainly in-kind, from the Reading Program's sponsors, the actual cost to SAPL was only \$43,646 or \$1.74/participant.

**Cathy** also noted that patrons at Forest Hills Branch are in the process of forming a Friends group.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**Staff Development Day:** **Mary Louise** announced that the annual Staff Development Day would be held on Friday, October 25, 2002, at the Municipal Auditorium. All libraries will be closed that day while staff is in training sessions. **Mary Louise** suggested that the Friends consider sponsoring a business lunch for the staff that day. She requested \$4,500 for a catered box lunch for approximately 500 staff. **Gerry Celitans** moved that

the Friends sponsor a staff lunch at a cost of \$4,500. The motion was seconded by **Ronni Ruppert** and passed.

**Centennial Poster Reception:** **Pat Mendiola**, Reception Committee Chair, reported that the SAPL Centennial Poster will be officially unveiled at a public reception held at Central Auditorium on Tuesday, November 12, 2002, from 6:00-8:00 PM. Artist **Clif Tinker** will be available to sign a limited number of posters @ \$50/poster. Additional posters will be sold, unsigned, throughout the centennial celebration @\$10/poster. **Pat** moved that the Friends allocate funds, not to exceed \$5,000, to cover the cost of invitations, mailing, catering, and printing. The motion was seconded by **Gerry Celitans** and passed.

**Barbara Isner** adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Celitans*

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## BRANCH LEAVES

(News from Support Groups)



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### Book Cellar

The Book Cellar Committee approved a space remodeling proposal drafted by Chairman **Jim Wogstad** and referred it to Library administrators for their review. The proposal calls for more visible signage on the main floor of the Central Library directing people to the Book Cellar plus additional signs inside the store marking various areas. The plan also includes converting the former food counter to a book display area, adding more shelves for premium books and moving the children's section to the alcove near the patio. If the Library staff approves the changes, the committee will determine their cost and present the plan to the FOSAPL Board for approval and inclusion in the 2003 budget, **Jim** said.

The Book Cellar continues to hold monthly clearance sales in rotating categories. The November sale features large-print books, both fiction and nonfiction. The October special was a "Buy One – Get One Free" offer on mysteries, while the September deal was social science and health books at 3 for \$1. "We're trying to give people the idea to come back and see what special sale we've got going this month," Book Cellar manager **Karen Atkinson** said.

Adult and children's books with Christmas themes, saved all year, will go on display this month, as soon as Thanksgiving books are sold.

Several boxes of duplicate novels and nonfiction have been passed on to Friends groups at various branches for their fall sales.

*Pat Konstam, Book Cellar Correspondent*

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### McCreless

Our two-day booksale on Oct 5 & 6 was a big success, thanks to the efforts of many members, especially **Tom Nemeth**. The income was more than \$700.

Our next meeting on Wednesday, December 11, will include the election of officers for next year. Our December meetings usually feature a celebration of the four winter festivals: Hanukkah, Solstice, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. This year we expect to feast on foods typical of these holidays amidst representative decorations. Join us in the conference room at 6:45 pm.

As we have done for several years, McCreless Friends will purchase a number of potted poinsettia plants to add a festive touch to the library in December. Each plant will go home with a staff member after the holidays.

*Paula Massengale, Publicity Chair  
phone 210-533-5935, fax 210-212-7451  
e-mail: margoent@swbell.net*

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### Oakwell

Friends of Oakwell Library, 4134 Harry Wurzbach, will hold its annual membership meeting on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 2-4 PM in the library's meeting room. The speaker will be **Dr. Char Miller**, author and professor of history at Trinity University, whose two most recent books are *On the Border: An Environmental History of San Antonio* and *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism*. He will speak on the history of San Antonio, focusing on the relationship between water and the city's growth. Officers for 2003 will be elected, and refreshments will be served.

Oakwell's Fall Book Sale will be on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

*Aaron Konstam, President  
Friends of Oakwell Library*

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## LEWIS FAIRCHILD FISHER (Cont'd)

Born in Rochester, New York, December 18, 1941, Fisher obtained his B.A. in 1963 from Allegheny College. After a year long stint as a reporter for Wolfe Newspapers in suburban Rochester, he joined the Air Force in 1964, subsequently attending Officer Training School at Lackland AFB. Rising to the rank of Captain as an intelligence officer, Fisher first served at Cigli Air Base in Ismir, Turkey, from 1964-66, followed by a posting to Headquarters U.S. Air Forces Europe in Wiesbaden, Germany, from 1966-68. After his discharge from the Service, he married **Mary Maverick McMillan** from San Antonio in 1968 and earned his M.S. from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism the following year.

Upon the couple's return to San Antonio, Fisher served as a reporter for the *San Antonio Express-News* from 1969-71. For approximately the next twenty years, he built Fisher Publications, Inc., a group of ten San Antonio suburban weekly newspapers, including *The North San Antonio Times*.

Once Fisher's corporation was well established, the publisher began to turn again to research and writing, producing *Saving San Antonio: The Precarious Preservation of a Heritage*, published by Texas Tech University Press in 1996. Commissioned by the San Antonio Conservation Society, this work chronicles the development of historic preservation of San Antonio since the 1870s, concentrating on the impact such efforts have had on the city. It was followed a year later by *Crown Jewel of Texas: The Story of San Antonio's River*, the first book to explore and document the 100-year evolution of San Antonio's River Walk.

Expanding his field of interest to other areas and more general topics relating to San Antonio, Fisher published *Outpost of Empires*, a general illustrated history of the city in 1997, followed by *The Spanish Missions of San Antonio*, a portrayal of San Antonio's five missions from their origins through their decline and restoration, in 1998, and *Balcones Heights: A Crossroads of San Antonio*, a 50th anniversary book commissioned by the City of Balcones Heights, in 1999. His systematic collection of nearly 200 early postcards, providing a survey of San Antonio's military installations, led to the publication of *Eyes Right! A Vintage Postcard Profile of San Antonio's Military in 2000*.

*C.H. Guenther & Son at 150 Years: The Legacy of a Texas Milling Pioneer*, a history of the state's oldest business and the nation's oldest family-owned milling company, was commissioned by the San Antonio-based maker of Pioneer Flour and other food products and published in 2001. Fisher's most recent work, *From the Alamo to Espada: A Vintage Postcard Profile of San Antonio's Spanish Missions*, showing the rescue of the missions through more than 150 early 20th century postcards, including a section portraying the local legacy of Mission/Alamo Revival architecture in the city's historic plazas, parks, and the River Walk, will be published in December.

In addition to the aforementioned publications, Fisher has written numerous articles on San Antonio's heritage in San Antonio newspapers and in *Texas Highways* and *The Rotarian* magazines, has contributed the chapter "Preserving the Built Environment" in *On the Border: An Environmental History of San Antonio*, edited by **Dr. Char Miller** from Trinity University and published by the University of Pittsburgh Press last year.

Fisher has won many local, regional, state, and national awards for newspaper editorials and column writing, has garnered further service awards from the San Antonio Conservation Society in 1971, 1986, and 2001 as well as meriting the Texas Society of Architects John G. Flowers Award in 2001 for promoting excellence in the built environment through Maverick Publishing's books on the subject.

His numerous board memberships include Suburban Newspapers of America (President, 1988-89), Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health (Chairman, 1984-86), Christ Episcopal Church (vestry clerk, 1986), Torch Club of San Antonio (President 1981-82), Alamo Heights School Foundation (President, 1975-76), San Pedro Playhouse (Secretary, 1995-97), San Antonio Botanical Society, Northeast YMCA, and the Friends of the McNay Art Institute.

Mr. Fisher is also the father of two children: **William**, 30, a lawyer with Matthews & Branscomb in San Antonio, and **Maverick**, 26, a lawyer with the attorney general's office in Austin.

If he wasn't born in Texas, San Antonians have a right to be grateful that Lewis F. Fisher got here as soon as he could.

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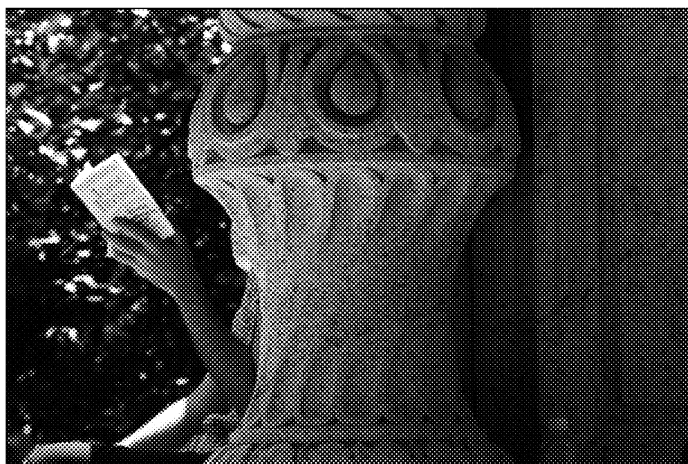
## MICHAEL GREENBERG (Cont'd)

A native of San Antonio, **Mike Greenberg** has been a critic and columnist for the *San Antonio Express-News* since 1979.

His subjects range widely across architecture, urban planning and design, classical music, First Amendment issues, arts politics and general cultural criticism. The unifying theme that animates much of his writing is a belief in the power of urban neighborhoods, with their concentrated diversity and their free exchange of ideas, to expand knowledge, technique and humane values.

His book on urban design, *The Poetics of Cities*, was published by the Ohio State University Press in 1995 and has been used in architecture and urban studies courses at universities across the country. For the American Institute of Architects Committee on Design, he wrote "Syn-





thesis: Architecture, Craftsmanship, Design," the report of a 1989 international conference held in Helsinki, Finland. He has written articles for numerous magazines, including *Architecture*, *Cite*, *Metropolis*, *Musical America* and *Texas Monthly*.

Prior to joining the staff of his hometown newspaper, Greenberg was managing editor of *Chicago Magazine* (1972-78) and *D Magazine* in Dallas (1978-79). While doubling as de facto art director at *Chicago Magazine*, he won several awards for art direction and graphic design. Working with many of Chicago's best photographers kindled his own interest in photography, which became a more serious artistic pursuit in 1999. Though he shoots exclusively on film, he has enthusiastically embraced digital technology for printing his black-and-white images.

After graduation from Alamo Heights High School in San Antonio, he attended Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., where he studied political science and philosophy. In 1986-87, he was a John S. Knight Fellow at Stanford University, where he studied the history and philosophy of science and the literature and history of Latin America, among other subjects.

His enthusiasms for traditional black-and-white film photography, Canon F-1 cameras, and Web design can be seen at [www2.dcci.com/frontporch/fphome.html](http://www2.dcci.com/frontporch/fphome.html). Naturally, he does all of his serious writing, image editing, and design on Macintosh computers.

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## Branch Leaves (Cont'd)

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### Texana/Genealogy

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The Friends of Texana/Genealogy book sale was a great success with proceeds of \$2,760. Many thanks to the volunteers who assisted in the setup and on sale day—**Lou and Bob Harris, George Farias, Jo Myler, J.O. Wallace, Liz Davies, Sissy and Carl Braunig, Fred Pfeiffer, Ira Lott, and Margaret Lecznar.** Also thanks to the staff including **Frank Faulkner** and **Matt DeWalsche** for their cooperation. We couldn't have done it without this group! We will now work with the staff to determine needs to be presented to the Friends for funding. Also, remember that we always need donations for future book sales. Keep us in mind as you clean out your bookshelves! Look for news of our early 2003 meetings and programs in the next newsletter.

*Maria Watson Pfeiffer, President*

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### Thousand Oaks

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The book sale will be Dec. 7, 10:00AM - 3:00 PM. **Free gift wrapping.** For more information, call **Ivy Durnell**, 653-3246.

*Ivy Durnell, President*

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### Westfall

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The Friends of Westfall are bragging about the "environmentally correct" garden now decorating the southwest corner of Westfall Branch Library. Financing the plants on the Branch Wish List, the Friends assisted **Will Stein**, Westfall Librarian, in creating a xeriscape garden; **Will** even worked on Sundays this fall to get it planted with appropriate shrubs and flowers. We thank **Will** for all his efforts and look forward to seeing it grow and bloom.

The Westfall Teen Council had fun decorating the library for "Teen Read Week." The Teens also took part in Hispanic Heritage Month Poetry Night. They composed their own poems, and then read them to the group. Obviously, the Teens are braver than adults!

Our fall Used Book Sale at Westfall will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2002, from 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Donated books are accepted with joy!

*Bettie Ward, President*

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Renewal notices will be sent out the first week in December. However, you can save the Friends some postage and me a bit of work and time if you just pick up a membership envelope on your next trip to the library, fill it out, and mail it in with your check. Be sure to include branch group information if you wish to belong to a particular group.

If you have any questions, call **Ronnie Retzloff**, 490-4337. Thank you.

**BE A FRIEND! RENEW TODAY!**

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## FOREST HILLS APPEAL

**HELP NEEDED!!!** We sure could use a Friends group at Forest Hills Branch Library. Please contact Public Service Manager **Kate Gray** if you live in the Forest Hills area and could help get one started.

**Kate Gray**, Public Service Manager  
Forest Hills Branch Library  
[cgray@san.antonio.gov](mailto:cgray@san.antonio.gov), 431-2544

## Treasurer's Report

	1-Sep-02	Income	Expenses	31-Oct-02
CD	\$22,650.00			\$22,650.00
Guaranty Cd 4323	\$25,000.00			\$25,000.00
Guaranty Cd 4315	\$25,000.00			\$25,000.00
Guaranty MM	\$56,029.58			\$56,029.58
Guaranty Checking	\$15,577.61	\$2,331.49	-\$10,848.72	\$7,060.38
Sub Total	<b>\$144,257.19</b>			<b>\$135,739.96</b>
Branch Funds	<u>\$60,547.61</u>	\$63.75	-\$448.72	<u>\$60,162.64</u>
Total Available	<b>\$83,709.58</b>			<b>\$75,577.32</b>

<b>Income</b>	
Book Cellar	\$2,172.43
Membership/Donations	\$65.00
Branch Sales/Donations	\$60.75
Interest on CD	\$33.31
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,331.49</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Parking	
Bulk Mail	
Newsletter Publication	\$300.00
Newsletter Printing	
Bank Deposit Stamp	
Postage/Copies	
Sales Taxes	
Payroll Taxes	
Membership	
Book Cellar Petty Cash	\$100.00
Bicentennial Poster	\$10,000.00
Branch Expenses	\$448.72
	<b>\$10,848.72</b>

Branch Group	Beginning	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
Brookhollow	10558.49			\$10,558.49
Carver	1392.2			\$1,392.20
Cody	7738.59			\$7,738.59
Johnston	422			\$422.00
McCreless	\$2,453.35		-38.32	\$2,415.03
Oakwell	\$11,011.58			\$11,011.58
Teens	37.89			\$37.89
Texana/Genelogy	12070.27			\$12,070.27
1000 Oaks	4785.07	\$63.75	-410.4	\$4,438.42
Westfall	7444.62			\$7,444.62
Writers	2633.55			\$2,633.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,547.61</b>	<b>\$63.75</b>	<b>-\$448.72</b>	<b>\$60,162.64</b>

*Submitted by*  
**Robbie Ruppert, Treasurer**



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## CALENDAR OF BOOK SALES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

*Please refer to the Branch Leaves (pp 3–4) for support group meetings. It's a good idea to call and verify information before setting out for a meeting or program. Sometimes dates or times change after newsletter publication*

November 9	Westfall Book Sale, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
<b>November 12</b>	<b>Centennial Poster Party</b> , 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Central Library Auditorium. Refreshments
November 16	Brook Hollow Book Sale, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
<b>November 20</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> , 7:00 PM, Book Cellar
<b>December 1</b>	<b>Arts &amp; Letters Awards</b> , 2:00 PM, Central Library Auditorium
December 7	Thousand Oaks Book Sale, 10:00 AM - 3 PM
<b>January 19</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b> , 2:00 PM, Central Library Auditorium

Brook Hollow Library  
530 Heimer Road, 78232  
(210) 496-6315

Central Library  
600 Soledad Street, 78205  
(210) 207-2534

Thousand Oaks Library  
4618 Thousand Oaks, 78233  
(210) 657-5205

Westfall Library  
6111 Rosedale Court, 78201  
(210) 344-2373

\*Note: Each branch Friends group has a designated representative to the Board. However, these Board meetings are open to the general membership. All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

## DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY IS DECEMBER 10, 2002

Please mail your copy or disk (PC or Mac) formatted in Word to Marti Nodine, 10935 Whisper Valley, City 78230. Email your submissions in the main part of your email message, not as an attachment, to [martisatex@aol.com](mailto:martisatex@aol.com). **Call 492-2846 for faxing arrangements.** Thanks for your continuing cooperation.—M